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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/213,271	12/17/1998	MARTIN R. HANDFORTH	RO-3951	7176

34645 7590 09/10/2003

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EXAMINER
TRAN, CON P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2644	19

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/213,271	HANDFORTH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Con P. Tran	2644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 June 2003* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-23* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3 and 7-23* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *4-6* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1, 7-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hung et al. U.S. Patent 5,390,231 Pistilli U.S. Patent 5,539,820 (cited by Applicant).

Regarding **claim 1**, Hung et al. teaches a protection arrangement for a line circuit (see Fig. 1, and respective portions of the specification), comprising:

current sensing means (12) for sensing current flowing through the telephone subscriber line (see col. 5, lines 20-30);

line circuit isolation means (contacts 14, relay 15) for selectively coupling the line circuit to the telephone subscriber line (see col. 5, lines 20-30);

Hung et al. further teaches the digital control circuit (i.e., control means) 20 controls the voltage DV and the voltages TV and RV to provide a limited loop current while maintaining adequate voltage via amplifier 32 (col. 6, lines 40-50); in the event

that the output of the low pass filter exceeds a predetermined threshold level stored in the digital control circuit 20, the circuit 20 sets the overcurrent flag (col. 7, lines 40-43).

Hung et al. teaches control of the power supply instead of isolation.

Pistilli teaches (Fig. 1) a CVG 20, a switch S which is closed so that the battery voltage BV is connected to the line 22 to constitute the line drive circuit supply voltage DV (see col. 5, lines 17-22). In addition, Pistilli further teaches the line interface circuit illustrated in FIG. 4 includes diode 54, transistor 48. The transistor 48 is fully turned on, its collector current flowing through the resistor 46 reducing the gate-source voltage of the MOSFET 42 to turn off this MOSFET, so that current is no longer supplied via the line 22 to the capacitor 26 (col. 9, lines 17-42) in order to substantially eliminate current through the controlled path of the transistor (col. 3, lines 34-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to include within the Hung et al. a interface circuit as taught by Pistilli in order to substantially eliminate current through the controlled path of the transistor as suggested by Pistilli in column 3, lines 34-36 for purpose of avoiding relay contact deterioration (Abstract).

Regarding **claim 7**, this claim is essentially similar to Claim 1 and is rejected for the reasons stated above regarding that claim.

Regarding **claim 8**, Hung et al. further teaches a method, wherein the step (b) of starting further comprises the steps of (see Fig. 2, and respective portions of the specification):

checking (block 52), after starting the timer, for the presence of the over-current condition (see col. 7, lines 55-67); and

stopping (block 55), responsive to the over-current condition no longer being present, the timer and continuing the method from the step (a) of checking (see col. 7, line 67 – col. 8, line 6);

Regarding **claim 9**, Hung et al. further teaches a method, wherein the step (b) of starting further comprises the steps of (see Fig. 2, 4 and respective portions of the specification):

checking (block 82), responsive to starting the timer and to the over current condition being present, for a presence of an over-voltage condition (see col. 13, lines 11-28), the over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined voltage threshold value (see col. 7, lines 11-20); and

stopping (block 50), responsive to the over-voltage condition being present, the timer and continuing the method from the step (a) of checking (see col. 8, line 7-41).

Regarding **claim 10**, Hung et al. further teaches a method, as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step (b) of starting a timer further comprises the steps of (see Fig. 2, and respective portions of the specification):

checking (block 59), responsive to the over-current condition being present and an over-voltage condition not being present, the timer to determine if the timer has expired (see col. 7, line 55 – col. 8, lines 6); and

continuing (block 51), responsive to the timer not having expired, the method from the step of checking, after starting the timer, for the presence of the over-current condition (see col. 8, lines 7-21).

Regarding **claim 11**, Hung et al. teaches a method of protecting a line circuit (see Fig. 2, 3 and respective portions of the specification) connected to a telephone subscriber line and to a separate power supply (CVG 18; col. 5, lines 32-42) from an over-voltage condition, the over voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined voltage threshold value (see col. 7, lines 11-20), comprising the steps of:

a) checking (block 55) for a presence of the over-voltage condition;

b) starting (block 58), responsive to the over-voltage condition being present, a first timer of predetermined duration;

c) disconnecting (block 61), responsive to the timer having expired and to the over-voltage condition being present, the line circuit from the telephone subscriber line;

d) waiting a predetermined amount of time (see col. 10, lines 52-59); and

e) reconnecting the line circuit to the telephone subscriber line (see col. 10, lines 59-65).

Hung et al. further teaches the digital control circuit 20 controls the voltage DV and the voltages TV and RV to provide a limited loop current while maintaining adequate voltage via amplifier 32 (col. 6, lines 40-50); in the event that the output of the low pass filter exceeds a predetermined threshold level stored in the digital control circuit 20, the circuit 20 sets the overcurrent flag (col. 7, lines 40-43).

However, Hung et al. does not explicitly show:

steps of power supply being disconnected, reconnected from line circuit and from telephone subscriber line circuit.

Pistilli teaches (Fig. 1) a CVG 20, a switch S which is closed so that the battery voltage BV (i.e. a separate power supply) is connected to the line 22 to constitute the line drive circuit supply voltage DV (see col. 5, lines 17-22). In addition, Pistilli further teaches the line interface circuit illustrated in FIG. 4 includes diode 54, transistor 48. The transistor 48 is fully turned on, its collector current flowing through the resistor 46 reducing the gate-source voltage of the MOSFET 42 to turn off this MOSFET, so that current is no longer supplied via the line 22 to the capacitor 26 (col. 9, lines 17-42) in order to substantially eliminate current through the controlled path of the transistor (col. 3, lines 34-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Pistilli teaching with Hung et al. in order to substantially eliminate current through the controlled path of the transistor as suggested by Pistilli in column 3, lines 34-36 for purpose of avoiding relay contact deterioration (Abstract).

Regarding **claim 12**, Hung et al. teaches a method circuit (see Fig. 1, 2 and respective portions of the specification), wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

f) checking (block 55) for the presence of the over-voltage condition;

g) restarting (block 58), responsive to the over-voltage condition being present, the first timer; and

h) disconnecting (block 61), responsive to the first timer having expired after being restarted and to the over-voltage condition being present, the line circuit from the telephone subscriber line (see col. 9, lines 13-30).

Regarding **claim 13**, Hung et al. further teaches a method (see Fig. 1, 2 and respective portions of the specification) as claimed in claim 12, wherein the step (e) of reconnecting further comprises the steps of:

starting a second timer (63) of predetermined duration after the telephone subscriber interface circuit has been reconnected to the telephone subscriber line; and

continuing (block 51), responsive to the second timer having expired and the over-voltage condition not being present, the method from the step (a) of checking (see col. 9, lines 7-12).

Regarding **claim 14**, Hung et al. further teaches a method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the step (b) of starting further comprises the steps of (see Fig. 1, 2 and respective portions of the specification):

checking (block 51), after the first timer has been started, for the presence of the over-voltage condition; and

continuing (block 52), responsive to the over-voltage condition not being present and the first timer not having expired, the method from the step (a) of checking (see col. 9, lines 7-12).

Regarding **claim 15**, Hung et al. further teaches a method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step (g) of restarting further comprises the steps of (see Fig. 1, 2 and respective portions of the specification):

checking (block 54), after the first timer (block 58) has been restarted, for the presence of the over-voltage condition; and

continuing (block 52), responsive to the over-voltage condition not being present, the method from the step of starting a second timer (see col. 9, lines 7-12).

Regarding **claim 16**, Hung et al. teaches a method (see Fig. 1, 2, 3, 5 and respective portions of the specification) of protecting a line circuit connected to a telephone subscriber line and to a separate power supply (CVG 18; col. 5, lines 32-42) from positive and negative over-voltage conditions (see col. 14, lines 24-33), the positive over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone

subscriber line exceeds a predetermined positive voltage threshold value and the negative over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined negative voltage threshold value (see col. 14, lines 40-48), comprising the steps of:

a) checking (block 55) for a presence of the positive over-voltage condition;

b) checking (block 55), responsive to the positive over-voltage condition not being present, for a presence of the negative over-voltage condition;

c) starting (block 58), responsive to the negative over-voltage condition being present, a first timer of predetermined duration;

d) disconnecting (block 61), responsive to the timer having expired and to the negative over-voltage condition being present, the line circuit from the telephone subscriber line;

e) waiting a predetermined amount of time (block 63); and

f) reconnecting (91) the line circuit to the telephone subscriber line (see col. 14, lines 33-39).

Hung et al. further teaches the digital control circuit 20 controls the voltage DV and the voltages TV and RV to provide a limited loop current while maintaining adequate voltage via amplifier 32 (col. 6, lines 40-50); in the event that the output of the low pass filter exceeds a predetermined threshold level stored in the digital control circuit 20, the circuit 20 sets the overcurrent flag (col. 7, lines 40-43).

However, Hung et al. does not explicitly show:

steps of power supply being disconnected, reconnected from line circuit and from telephone subscriber line circuit.

Regarding **claim 17**, Hung et al. further teaches a method (see Fig. 1, 2 and respective portions of the specification) a method, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

g) checking (block 55) for a presence of the positive over-voltage condition;

h) checking (block 55), responsive to the positive over-voltage condition not being present, for a presence of the negative over-voltage condition;

i) restarting (block 58), responsive to the negative over-voltage condition being present, the first timer; and

j) disconnecting (block 61), responsive to the first timer having expired after being restarted and to the negative over-voltage condition being present, the line circuit from the telephone subscriber line.

Regarding **claim 18**, Hung et al. further teaches a method (see Fig. 1, 2, 5 and respective portions of the specification) a method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the step (f) of reconnecting further comprises the steps of:

starting (block 92), after the telephone subscriber interface circuit has been reconnected to the telephone subscriber line, a third timer of predetermined duration;

checking (block 94), for a presence of the positive over-voltage condition;

checking (block 95), responsive to the positive over-voltage condition not being present, for a presence of the negative over-voltage condition; and

continuing (block 55), responsive to the third timer having expired and both positive and negative over-voltage conditions not being present, the method from the step (a) of checking (see col. 15, lines 33-45).

Regarding claim 19, Hung et al. further teaches (see Fig. 1, 2, 4 and respective portions of the specification) a method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the step (c) of starting further comprises the steps of:

checking (block 55), after the first timer has been started, for a presence of the positive over-voltage condition;

starting (block 63), responsive to the positive over-voltage condition being present, a second timer of predetermined duration;

disconnecting (block 61), responsive to the second timer having expired and to the positive over-voltage condition being present, the line circuit from the telephone subscriber line;

waiting a predetermined amount of time (block 63); and

reconnecting (block 84) the line circuit to the telephone subscriber line (see col. 13, lines 12-27).

Regarding **claim 20**, Hung et al. further teaches (see Fig. 1, 2 and respective portions of the specification) a method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step (i) of restarting further comprises the steps of:

checking (block 55), after the first timer (block 58) has been restarted, for a presence of the positive over-voltage condition;

starting (block 63), responsive to the positive over-voltage condition being present, a second timer of predetermined duration; and

disconnecting (block 61711), responsive to the second timer having expired and to the positive over-voltage condition being present, the line circuit from the telephone subscriber line.

Regarding **claim 21**, Hung et al. further teaches (see Fig. 1, 2 and respective portions of the specification) a method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the step of starting a second timer further comprises the steps of:

checking (block 55), after the second timer has been started, for the presence of the positive over-voltage condition; and

continuing (block 62), responsive to the positive over-voltage condition not being present and the second timer not having expired, the method from the step of starting the third timer.

Regarding **claim 22**, Hung et al. further teaches (see Fig. 1, 2, 5 and respective portions of the specification) a method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the step of:

checking (block 55) for a presence of the positive over-voltage condition after the first timer has been restarted further comprises the steps of:

checking (block 95), responsive to the positive over-voltage condition not being present, for the presence of the negative over-voltage condition (see col. 15, lines 7-18); and

continuing (block 62), responsive to the negative over-voltage condition not being present and the first timer not having expired after having been restarted, the method from the step of starting the third timer (see col. 14, lines 33-39).

Regarding **claim 23**, Hung et al. further teaches (see Fig. 1, 2, 5 and respective portions of the specification) a method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the step (c) of starting further comprises the steps of:

checking (block 55), after the first timer has been started, for the presence of the negative over-voltage condition; and

continuing (block 51), responsive to the negative over-voltage condition not being present and the first timer not having expired, the method from the step (a) of checking (see col. 7, lines 48-55).

3. **Claims 2-3** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hung et al. U.S. Patent 5,390,231 in view of Pistilli U.S. Patent 5,539,820 (cited by Applicant), and further in view of Chen U.S. Patent 6,288,883.

Regarding **claim 2**, Hung et al. in view of Pistilli teaches a protection arrangement for a line circuit a protection arrangement of claim 1. However, Hung et al. and Pistilli in combination does not explicitly disclose a power supply isolation means that comprises:

a FET having a source for connecting to the power supply, a drain for connecting to the line circuit, and a gate; and

an interface circuit connected to the source and drain of the FET, having an input connected to the control means, and an output connected to the gate of the FET, the interface circuit for operating the FET in saturation mode to couple the power supply to the line circuit and for turning off the FET to decouple the power supply from line circuit.

Chen teaches a power supply isolation means that comprises (see Fig. 2, 3, and respective portions of the specification):

a FET (Q102) having a source (S) for connecting to the power supply (i.e., input 12), a drain (D) for connecting to the line circuit (i.e., output 18), and a gate (G; see col. 3, lines 11-21); and

an interface circuit (see col. 1, lines 20-26) connected to the source (S) and drain (D) of the FET (see col. 3, lines 25-31), having an input connected to the control means (C125), and an output connected to the gate of the FET, the interface circuit for operating the FET in saturation mode to couple the power supply to the line circuit and for turning off the FET to decouple the power supply from line circuit (see col.

4, lines 5-15) in order to provide over-voltage or over-current protection (see col. 2, lines 37-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Chen teaching with Hung et al. and Pistilli in combination since such combination would provide over-voltage or over-current protection as suggested by Chen in col. 2, lines 37-41.

Regarding **claim 3**, Chen further teaches a protection arrangement (see Fig. 2, 3, and respective portions of the specification), wherein the interface circuit comprises:

a voltage divider having first (R125) and second (126) resistors, the first resistor (125) connected to the source (S) of the FET at one end and to the gate (G) of the FET at the other end, and the second resistor (126) connected to the gate of the FET at one end (see col. 5, lines 25-27); and

a pnp transistor (i.e., Q101, see col. 5, lines 34-38) having a base connected to ground, an emitter coupled to the controller means (C125), and a collector connected to the other end of the second resistor. It should be noted that the Chen reference discloses an npn transistor in drawings (Fig. 3). However, the reference does not explicitly specify an npn transistor in the specification.

Nevertheless, as would have been well known in the art at the time the invention was made, in both pnp and npn transistors, base current causes collector current to flow, thus those of ordinary skill in the art would be able to modify the npn transistor in the protection circuit taught by Chen reference with a pnp transistor.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the npn transistor in the protection circuit taught by Chen reference with a pnp transistor for the purpose of utilization of available components.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 4-6** objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding to **claim 4**, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed limitations with the reasons set forth in the Applicant's Remarks of Amendment filed on June 26, 2003, paper number 13, pages 16-17.

Claim 5 would be allowable as being dependent on dependent claim 4.

Claim 6 would be allowable as being dependent on dependent claim 5.

Response to Amendment

5. With respect to rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, claim 1 has been amended. Accordingly, the rejection is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicants' argument with respect to claim 4 is persuasive. Accordingly, Claim 4 would be allowable as indicated.

7. Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 1-3 and 5-23 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive

8. Applicants assert on pages 12-13:

> "Both Hung and Pistilli fail to teach control means ... to decouple the power supply from the line circuit in response to a current ... exceeding a current threshold. ... Hung doesn't disconnect the power at all and Pistilli only does so in response to an over-voltage condition. ..."

Examiner respectfully disagrees. In response to applicants' arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In this case, the Applicants attempt to overcome the Hung reference by suggesting that Hung doesn't disconnect the power at all; and Applicants attempt to overcome the Pistilli reference by suggesting that Pistilli only does so in response to an over-voltage condition. The Examiner, however, incorporate Pistilli teaching of

disconnecting power (col. 9, lines 25-35) with Hung teaching of response to over-current condition (col. 7, lines 11-15) in formulating the rejections under 35 USC 103.

9. Applicants further assert on page 14:

> " However, even if the Examiner is correct, there still is no motivation to combine Hung and Pistilli. Specifically, it would not have been obvious to replace a portion of Hung's circuitry with circuitry that performs a different function, when the objective could have been achieved simply by removing that same portion of circuitry."

Examiner respectfully disagrees. As the rejection discussed above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate –not "to replace"- Pistilli teaching with Hung et al.

10. Applicants further assert on page 15:

> "Independent claim 7 recites a method that includes the steps of disconnecting... the line circuit from the power supply, and reconnecting the line circuit to the power supply. Independent claims 11 and 16 contain limitations of a similar nature. Since the combination of Hung and Pistilli fails to teach or suggest this feature, and because there is no motivation to make the combination in the first instance, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 7, 11, and 16 be withdrawn."

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hung in view of Pistilli does teach claimed limitations. As presented above, the Office Action incorporate Pistilli teaching of disconnecting power (col. 9, lines 25-35) with Hung teaching of response to over-current condition (col. 7, lines 11-15). In response to applicants' argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can

only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)and In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

In this case, the Applicants attempt to overcome the combination of Hung in view of Pistilli by suggesting that no motivation was provided to combine the references. However, in every instance where references were combined to form the basis of a rejection, the Examiner provided an explicit motivation, as presented in the Office Action.

11. Applicants further assert on page 17:

> "The only path that connects the capacitor to the drain of the FET Q102 is via resistor R133, resistor R136 and diode 16. The diode 16 *effectively blocks this path* to the drain of FET Q102. Thus, capacitor C125 cannot be considered to be connected to the drain of the FET Q102."

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Since claim 5 only states "connected" without specifying how. Thus, capacitor C125 does meet claim limitation.

12. Applicants further assert on page 17:

> "The controller was identified earlier, on page 18 of the office action in connection with rejection of claim 2, and again on page 19 of the office action in connection with rejection of claim 3, as capacitor C125. As is clear in Fig. 3 of Chen, the resistor R133 is not connected *between* the emitter of Q101 and the capacitor C125.."

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Since claim 6 only states "couples" without specifying "*between*" as Applicants' argument. Thus resistor R133 does meet claim limitation.

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Con P. Tran, whose telephone number is (703) 305-2341. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forester W. Isen can be reached on (703) 305-4386. The fax phone

numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service Office at telephone number (703) 306-0377.

cpt CPJ
September 8, 2003

MINSUN OH HARVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER